

Code: 4451

Title: SPEECH THERAPIST

SUMMARY: This classification develops and provides speech and hearing therapy programs to assist patients/clients in the development, recovery or enhancement of verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor.)

Evaluates patient/client medical history and related background information relative to impairment of speech, language and hearing abilities;
Examines patient/client oral cavity and ears for structural deviations and functional disorders;
Administers audiometric screening tests and refers patient/client for complete audiometric evaluation as required;
Evaluates level of patient/client language development, articulation ability, vocal and fluency disorders and assesses the quality of these skills;
Assesses individual patient/client needs, physical/mental condition, experience and interests to develop an individualized program of speech and hearing therapy;
Develops and provides individualized speech and hearing therapy programs to patients/clients;
Coordinates individual therapy plans with appropriate health-care providers, care facility staff and patient/client family members or guardians;
Trains health-care givers, care facility staff and patient/client family members in corrective speech and hearing techniques to enhance and reinforce therapy programs;
Develops or coordinates provision of special assistive speech and hearing devices, tools and related equipment to assist patients/clients in meeting therapeutic goals;
Maintains comprehensive records of patient/client assessments, therapeutic plans and progress notes;
Prepares recurring, routine and special reports on speech and hearing therapy programs and individual case reports;
Maintains appropriate confidentiality of patient/client information created or encountered in performance of assigned duties;
Participates in utilization review conferences and meetings with health-care providers and care facility professional and paraprofessional staff;
Consults with patient/client family members or guardians to provide progress reports and enlist their support in advancing the therapeutic goals;
May supervise and/or train paraprofessional, student and volunteer staff providing therapeutic activities for patients/clients.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- principles, practices and techniques for the development and delivery of speech and hearing therapy;
- human anatomy, physiology and psychology relative to the etiology of speech and hearing problems and disorders;
- rehabilitative objectives in assessment, treatment, training and motivation of patients/clients;
- medical, legal, facility and program requirements for the conduct and documentation of speech and hearing therapeutic activities;
- care facility and medical protocols for the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients/clients.

Skill in:

- assessing patient/client current and past medical, physical and mental history and conditions ;
- developing and conducting individualized patient/client speech and hearing therapeutic programs, in concert with health-care providers and care facility staff;
- motivating patients/clients to achieve therapeutic program goals;
- maintaining comprehensive treatment records for assigned patients/clients;

- communicating effectively with patients, clients, health-care providers, care-facility staff and patient/client family members or guardians;
- training and supervising paraprofessional, student and volunteer staff in the conduct of individual therapeutic activities for patients/clients and groups;
- maintaining appropriate confidentiality of patient/client information created or encountered in performance of assigned duties.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Possession of a current Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: At the time of appointment, employee must hold a current license issued by the State of Arizona to practice as a Speech-Language Pathologist, per ARS 32-1940. Employee must maintain a current license as a Speech-Language Pathologist as a condition of employment. Some positions may require a valid Arizona Class D Driver's License at the time of appointment or prior to completion of initial/promotional probation. Failure to maintain required licenses and/or certifications shall be grounds for termination.

Special Notice Items: Department of Labor Regulation CFR Part 1910.1030 requires notification that this category may have a high risk of exposure to blood-borne pathogens. In accordance with OSHA and Pima County guidelines, Tuberculin (TB) screening, Hepatitis B vaccinations and safety training and equipment will be provided. Some positions may require fluency in both English and a second language, as determined by the Appointing Authority. Some positions within this classification may require a current Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Clearance Card in order to work with vulnerable adults and children at the time of application. The DPS Clearance Card may be required as a condition of continued employment. In positions requiring a DPS Clearance Card, failure to maintain a current DPS Clearance Card shall be grounds for termination.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: Physical and sensory abilities will be determined by position.

This class specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the class and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the class perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.